Spectrum allocation

*318. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spectrum allocation to CDMA telecom operators has been delayed from June to December, 2008;

(b) if so, the details there of and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that launch of 3G wireless services would be delayed and face major problems with spectrum allocation getting delayed; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take for allocation of spectrum before June, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No case is pending for allotment of CDMA spectrum for 2G services as per present criteria. The allotment of spectrum to various mobile telecom operators, including CDMA operators, is made taking into account relevant provisions of their service license agreement, guidelines, orders eligibility criteria etc., and subject to availability of spectrum.

(c) and (d) The Government has announced the broad guidelines for 3G services taking into account TRAI recommendations and other related aspects. These guidelines include, among others, allotment of spectrum for 3G services through auction process.

Complaints regarding coal theft

†*319. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaint of coal theft by the officers of the company, coal transporter in connivance with office bearer of employees association have been received from Bhaji Pani Open Cast Western Coalfields Ltd., Parasia, district Chhindwara;

(b) whether headquarters of the Western Coalfields Ltd. Nagpur Parasia has received any complaint;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) the findings of inquiry and efforts that have been made to check the theft of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a complaint was received by the management of Pench Area, Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) and also WCL Headquarters, Nagpur regarding pilferage of coal from Bhaji Pani Open Cast Mine (OCM.) in Pench Area.

(c) The matter was investigated by Chief Security Officer (CSO), WCL.

(d) The major findings of enquiry are as under:

(i) involvement of coal transporter in organized theft of coal along with others was not ruled out.

(ii) The inaction on the part of local police is responsible for continuation of such activities.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.